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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/849,881	05/21/2004	Tetsuro Motoyama	R2180.0111/P111-C	8584
24998	7590	01/26/2005	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP 2101 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037			GRANT II, JEROME	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	
DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/849,881	TAKURA, KEIZO
	Examiner Jerome Grant II	Art Unit 2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3, 7-10, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4-6, 11-13 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

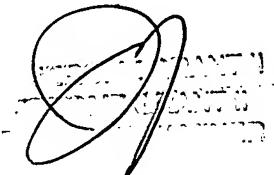
#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/425,007.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Detailed Action

1.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 14 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobori.

With respect to claim 1 Kobori teaches a multi-function machine (shown by figure 1), comprising: means 4 for merged in a first set of electronic image data (camera 1) with a second set of electronic image data (camera 27) to form merged image data; and means 10 for conveying said merged image data to one of a plurality of user selectable destinations (monitor 15 or print mech. 17) within said multi-function machine.

With respect to claim 2, Kobori teaches multi-function machine of claim 1 wherein said first set of electronic image data and said second set of electronic image data may include scanned data (image data from cameras 1 and 27).

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With respect to claim 3, Kobori teaches wherein said first set of electronic image data and said second set of electronic image data may include registered image data (photo-image and signature images are registered).

With respect to claim 7, Kobori teaches a user selectable destination which includes a printer 17, a storage means 19 and a host computer 7. Although monitor 15 is not a fax machine, 15 functions to output image data from the scanner. Claim 7 is still anticipated in view of Kobori.

With respect to claim 8, Kobori teaches a multi-functioin machine, comprising: means 4 for receiving a merge command; means 9 responsive to said receiving means, for reading one of the plurality of user selectable logical operations, means (switch 28) responsive to said receiving means, for accepting on eof a plurality of user selectable merge destinations within said multi-function machine; and system controller 22 responsive to the receiving means for identifying a source of a first set of digital data , computer 7 as the means responsive to said receiving means, for selecting a source of a second set of digital data; means 7 responsive to said receiving means for executing a merge operation according to said user selectable logical operation, wherein said first set of digital data is merged with said second set of digital data to form merged image data; and means 10 for transmitting said merged image data to one of said merge destinations (monitor 15, print mech. 17 or memory 18).

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With respect to claims 9 and 14, Kobori teaches a second set of digital data includes cameras 1 and 27.

With respect to claim 10, Kobori teaches wherein said first set of electronic image data and said second set of electronic image data include registered image data (photo-image and signature images are registered).

With respect to claim 15, Kobori teaches a method or operating a multi-function machine, comprising the steps of: receiving a merge command (via combiner 4) reading data representing one of a plurality of user selectable merge destinations (via personal computer 7) within said multi-function machine; identifying a first set of digital image data (photo image); selecting a second set of digital image data (handwritten signatures) executing a merge operation wherein said first set of digital image data is merged with said second set of digital image data to form merged image data (via combiner 4); and transmitting (via circuit 10) said merged iamge data to one of said merged destinations (monitor 15 or printer 17)

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2.

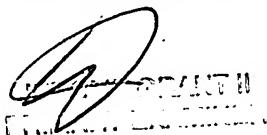
**Claims Objected**

Claims 4-6, 11-13 and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 703-305-4391. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A Williams, can be reached at 703-305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JEROME GRANT II  
EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2626

J. Grant II